

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

October 5, 1982

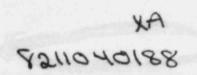
The Honorable William Richardson Mayor of Pismo Beach Pismo Beach, California 93449

Dear Mayor Richardson:

This responds to your letter of September 16, 1982 to Chairman Palladino, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, expressing your desire to have specially equipped fallout shelters provided for the residents of your community. Please recall that a member of the NRC emergency planning staff discussed with you by phone on September 20, 1982, requirements for emergency preparedness that are specified in our regulations.

One of the key provisions of NRC regulations is that the nuclear plant operator must declare the emergency and alert offsite authorities to notify the public on the basis of plant conditions before there is a release of radioactivity from the plant. The purpose and the consequence of this provision is that people have more time available to take protective actions. In addition, there is a requirement for an early notification system to alert people within a 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone around the reactor. Since you have pointed out that the jurisdictional limits of the City of Pismo Beach include residential communities within 10 miles of the Diablo Canyon reactor, please note that the early notification system of sirens installed by Pacific Gas and Electric includes Pismo Beach, and goes beyond the 10 mile zone to include Grover City and Arroyo Grande.

The 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone was the recommendation of a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Task Force on Emergency Planning. Their report is entitled "Planning Basis for the Development of State and Local Government Radiological Emergency Response Plans in Support of Light Water Nuclear Power Plants," NUREG-0396, EPA 520/1-78-016, published December 1978 (copy enclosed). The guidance in this report which has been incorporated into our regulations on emergency planning, includes recommendations on those planning elements considered appropriate. Construction of specially equipped fallout shelters is not considered to be an essential planning element.



In a Presidential Directive dated December 7, 1979, President Carter assigned responsibility for offsite emergency preparedness around nuclear power plants to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and it is now FEMA's responsibility to evaluate the adequacy of such plans. Consequently, we are forwarding a copy of your letter to FEMA Headquarters for their consideration.

I trust this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Deyoung, Director

Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure: NUREG-0396

cc: R. Krimm, FEMA

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